

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 02768 062229Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/066 W
-----023948 071258Z /53

R 060835Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 288
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, KS, US
SUBJECT: BLUE HOUSE BUGGING: PRESS COVERAGE

REF: SEOUL 2726 (DTG 040820Z APR 78)

1. HEADLINES AND/OR FRONTPAGE COVERAGE TO AMB SNEIDER/FORMIN MEETING OF 4/6. MOST PRESS REPORT FORMIN DEMANDED EXPLANATION OF BUGGING ISSUE AND ISSUED WARNING TO AMB SNEIDER THAT ROKG WILL EXPLORE COUNTER-MEASURES. ALSO REPORT ROKG INSTRUCTED ROK EMBASSY/WASH TO CONDUCT INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION. TONGA ILBO SAYS "IT APPEARS AMB SNEIDER REPEATED U.S. POSITION NOT TO COMMENT ON INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES, BUT ALSO REPEATED THERE WAS NO SUCH EAVESDROPPING." KYONG-HYANG SHINMUN REPORTED IT "HAS BECOME KNOWN" FORMIN HANDED MEMO TO U.S. SIDE DEMANDING "A PROPER AND CONVINCING EXPLANATION" OF BUGGING ISSUE.

2. PRESS CARRIES OP WIRE REPORT QUOTING CIA SPOKESMAN PETERSON SAYING "U.S. CIA HAS NOT BUGGED THE BLUE HOUSE". REPORT CONTINUES THAT WHEN PETERSON WAS QUERIED AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HIS STATEMENT INCLUDED EAVESDROPPING BY TAPING, ELECTRONIC DEVICES, AND ALL OTHER POSSIBLE MEANS, HE
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REPLIED, "I CANNOT COMMENT ANY FURTHER BEYOND WHAT I JUST SAID".

3. CHUNGANG ILBO WASH CORRESPONDENT REPORTS FORMER AMB PORTER REFUSED REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW SAYING, "THERE IS NOTHING I CAN ADD TO WHAT I SAID IN THE BCS INTERVIEW". RESPONDING TO CORRESPONDENT'S CONTINUED QUERY, PORTER IS

QUOTED, "MY REPLY IS NO COMMENT". CORRESPONDENT ADDS PORTER REFUSED TO ANSWER QUESTION CONCERNING FROM WHOM HE HEARD THE STORY ABOUT BLUE HOUSE BUGGING. SAME CORRESPONDENT QUOTES FORMER AMB BROWN BY TELEPHONE INTERVIEW, "I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THAT INCIDENT".

4. CHUNGANG ILBO FRONTPAGE COMMENTARY DEMANDS (1) TRUTH MUST BE REVEALED, (2) APOLOGY DUE, AND (3) GUARANTEE AGAINST FURTHER OCCURRENCES.

5. SEOUL SINMUN QUOTES A MOFA OFFICIAL, "THIS ISSUE IS DIFFICULT TO SETTLE UNTIL U.S. SIDE PRESENTS AN EXPLANATION SUFFICIENT TO CONVINCE THE KOREAN PEOPLE; HOWEVER, NO DETAILED COUNTER-MEASURES SUCH AS CALLING FORMER AMB PORTER TO TESTIFY IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN DECIDED AND SUCH METHOD REALISTICALLY IS NOT FEASIBLE".

6. COMMENT: GIVEN TIMING OF AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER (11:00 AM), AFTERNOON PRESS STORIES WERE CLEARLY WRITTEN BEFORE MOFA BRIEFING ON THAT MEETING WAS AVAILABLE.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL02768
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780150-0724
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780485/aaaacuex.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 40855cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3053198
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BLUE HOUSE BUGGING: PRESS COVERAGE
TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
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